(1) The tharavila and assessment on puduval lands should be reduced.

(2) When the tharavila and other dues exceeded Rs. 100 but was below Rs. 500, the ryots should be permitted to pay up the same in three annual instalments; when the amount was between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, in five instalments; and when above Rs. 1,000, in ten instalments.

The Member next said that, during the recent settlement, certain private pathways and canals through private holdings, intended solely for the convenience of the parties concerned, were included under the head of porambokes and portions of the banks of those canals were also included in the same. Those areas were not acquired by the Government on payment of compensation to the owners. The fact of their being included under the head of poramboke was unknown to many of the owners of lands. They were now ordered to vacate the so-called encroachments. He therefore prayed that the lands should at least be ordered to be acquired on payment of compensation to the owners and the pernicious practice of planting demarcation stones through the agency of the proverti officers discontinued or at least suspended till the financial stress caused by the war was over.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

14. Porambokes in the town of Kottayam.

Mr. Ittycheria Abraham (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) said that the inhabitants of the town were recently undergoing very great hardships on account of the unsympathetic steps taken by the officers in removing encroachments on poramboke lands in the town. The evils arose because the authorities worked the Regulation and rules according to the letter. They presented a memorial to the Dewan, while at Kottayam, regarding their hardships but the rigour had not in any way abated. Though the removal of the encroachments was effected ostensibly in the interests of the public under the provisions of the Land Conservancy Regulation, the practice had resulted in individual hardship to almost all the inhabitants of the town and it could not be affirmed that public interests were really served thereby. The benefits accruing were very small when compared to the hardships to the many. The Regulation, as in the case of many other similar Regulations, was a weapon of mischief in the hands of Sirkar officials. In removing an encroachment, the officers should take into consideration whether the encroachment was intentional. The encroachment itself might have resulted from an incorrect previous measurement by the survey authorities for which private persons were not responsible. It should also be considered whether the owner of the adjoining land was in long possession of the encroachment, and if so, whether the same could not be registered in his name, as rightly laid down by Rule 10 of the rules framed under the Regulation. The loss to the owner consequent on the immediate vacation of the encroachment should also be taken into account. A further grievance in the matter was that ample time and opportunity for adducing evidence and defending the case were not given to the parties. The status of the officer deputed for local investigation was also in most cases very low. The Member prayed that the above grievances of the inhabitants of the town might be redressed at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, will be asked to report on the Member's representations.

15. Removal of impediments in the way of the assignment of Government waste and other lands.

Mr. Abraham Izaac (Member, Nominated) thanked the Dewan for nominating him to the Assembly to represent the Pulaya converts to Christianity. Proceeding to his subject, he said that the people of his community had no sites for habitation purposes and prayed that Government assessed wastes should as far as possible be assigned to them. Though the Government were taking steps to remove some of their disabilities, certain hardships were still experienced by them in North and Central Travancore. He was of opinion that the beneficent results of the actions of the Government did not reach them in time on account of the unsympathetic attitude of some of the subordinate officers. He referred to the delay in the registry of certain puduvals in the Neyyattinkara and Nedumangad taluks, notwithstanding the orders of Government for registering them in their names, and to the delay in

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the registry of survey No. 119/1 of Muttambalam, Vijayapuram, Kottayam, of survey No. 49/1 of Valiakavu Reserve and of certain other areas, as being due to the indifference of certain subordinate revenue officers. He said that there were further difficulties in the registry of puduvals when they had to compete in open auction with the members of other communities who had influence and wealth to achieve their ends. In that connection he quoted the instance of the registry of 30 acres of reclamation from the Vembanad lake in the Kumarakam pakuthi.

In conclusion, he prayed that the Government might be pleased to issue specific orders that, for some time to come, preference should be given to applications for lands from the members of his community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

16. Registry of puduval and poramboke lands in the names of Pariahs for habitation.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) thanked the Dewan for nominating him to the Assembly to represent the grievances of one of the most depressed classes in Travancore. He said that, out of 70,000 Pariahs in Travancore, not more than five in a thousand had lands of their own for habitation, and therefore prayed that, wherever possible, puduvals should be ordered to be registered in their names. Even when they entered on, and made fit for cultivation, puduval and poramboke lands, influential members of other communities got the same registered in their own names and drove away the unoffending Pariah with his family from the lands. He had applied for the registry of certain puduval areas in the taluks of Kunnattur, Ambalapuzha, Tiruvalla, Karunagapalli, Mavelikara and Peermade taluks. He feared that the lands would be eventually registered to others and therefore requested that specific orders might be issued to expedite the assignment of the lands to them. He understood that there were areas included in proposed reserves which were not of use to the reserves, such as Thollayirakuzhimannu in the Valiakavu Reserve, Kalappakodumannu and Srampikalmannu in the Alapra Reserve, Aruvikalkavumannu in the Madaman Reserve, Pukkavumannu in the Karikode Reserve and certain similar areas in the Kodumon Reserve. Those areas might be ordered to be registered in the names of Pariahs.

He said that areas on the sides of the road from the Manimala river, through the reserves, to Rani and Koni to a distance of about 3½ miles and covering an area of about 5,000 acres, might be ordered to be registered in their names for the establishment of a Pariah colony.

He also prayed for the registry of 28 cents in survey No. 385/5 in the Tiruvalla pakuthi for the construction of a building for the common use of the whole community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

17. Desirability of modifying G. O. No. 2987/L. R., dated the 19th April 1915, so far as it relates to the method of assessment of compensation for land and trees.

Mr. K. T. Thomas (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that, before the advent of the Land Acquisition Regulation, III of 1067, the compensation paid to the owners of land acquired for Government purposes, was nominal. To place the rights of the owners on an equitable footing, the above Regulation was passed, and subsequent amendments were made to it by Regulations VIII of 1085 and XI of 1089 to afford greater relief to the owners of lands. That that was the object of the later Regulations was evident from a comparison of Sections 10 and 18 of the Regulation of 1067 with the Regulation of 1085 and Section 22 of the Regulation of 1089. Soon after the passing of the Regulation of 1089, the Acting Head Sirkar Vakil made certain suggestions regarding the procedure to be adopted under the Regulation in assessing compensation for lands. He suggested that the practice of first valuing the entire ground and then the trees should be discouraged. When the entire land was valued, the trees standing on it should be classed as timber or fuel, and when the trees were individually valued, no separate compensation should be paid for that portion of the ground which would be necessary for the trees to stand upon. The views of the Peishkars were invited and the G. O. in question was accordingly issued sanctioning the proposal. The popular view of the question was never brought to

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